

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register: 22 June 2001
Name of applicant/court: Comptroller of Customs
Applicant to the Labelling Body: Not Applicable
Title of Publication: Housewives At Play Number 5
Other Known Titles: Housewives At Play #5
Director: Not Applicable
Producer: Not Applicable
Publisher: Eros Comix (Gary Groth & Kim Thompson)
Author: Rebecca
Format: Comic
Country of Origin: USA
Language: English

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Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature:	Running time:
Trailers:	Running time:
	Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Display Conditions:

Either

That when the publication is on public display, the classification given to the publication must be shown on the front of the package in which the publication is kept;

and

That the publication must be publicly displayed only in a sealed package;

and

That where the publication is publicly displayed in a package, the package must be made of opaque material.

Or

That when the publication is on public display, the classification given to the publication must be shown on the publication; or any package in which the publication is kept;

and

That the publication must be publicly displayed only in a sealed package;

and

That the publication must be publicly displayed only in premises, or a part of premises, set aside for the public display of restricted publications (whether or not articles other than restricted publications are also displayed in those premises or that part of those premises).

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The comic *Housewives At Play Number 5* is classified as:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

The publication is an adult comic published in the USA. Its contents are largely made up of exaggerated and explicit depictions of sexual acts. The comic contains images that show a woman held under physical restraint and forced to watch other women

engage in sexual activity. When released she eagerly engages in sexual acts. The story is an exaggerated and ironic send-up of the belief that lesbian sexuality can be "cured" by therapy. There is little realism in the way the material is conceived or presented. The situation is very evidently contrived as part of a far-fetched storyline intended for sexual titillation. The sexual conduct depicted has moderately degrading, dehumanising and demeaning aspects.

A restricted classification places a limit on the right to the freedom of expression as set out in s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. However, in relation to this publication, the classification is considered to be a reasonable limit prescribed by law that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

OFLC Ref: 100225